

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 02/01998

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 171 335 B1 (WHEATLEY DAVID JOHN ET AL) 9 January 2001 (2001-01-09) column 5, line 15 -column 7, line 9 figures 3A,5,13,14	1,2,29
A	---	3,5,13, 31
P,X	US 6 364 905 B1 (CASAGRANDE IVAN ET AL) 2 April 2002 (2002-04-02) figure ALL column 3, line 19 -column 8, line 13 ---	3-6, 10-15, 17-24, 29-32, 34, 36-38, 41-47
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

A document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 August 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/08/2002

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 501 030 A (LANE ERNEST) 26 February 1985 (1985-02-26) figure 11 column 6, line 15 - line 28 ----	1,2
X	US 5 713 953 A (CURCIO MARIA ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) cited in the application figures 3-7 column 3, line 55 -column 4, line 31 ----	3,4
A		1,5,13, 29,31
A	WO 01 26703 A (INTERNAT HEART INST OF MONTANA) 19 April 2001 (2001-04-19) page 8, line 28 -page 11, line 11 -----	1-3,5, 13,29,31

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 25, 26, 27, 28, 48, 49, 50, 51
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB 02/01998

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1,2

A heart valve prosthesis having a plurality of leaflets encircling a flow opening and a size to coapt to form a valve, each leaflet having a free outflow edge at the outflow end of the leaflet, wherein the free outflow edge forms a convex (relative to the leaflet) curve in the plane of the leaflet.

2. Claims: 3-24,29-47

A method for forming a heart valve prosthesis comprising the steps of assembling the valves, by steps comprising forming a plurality of leaflets joined to encircle a flow passage and of a size to coapt to form a valve, and forming an outer sheet joined to the leaflets around an inflow end and along commissures formed where adjacent leaflets join, after assembly of at least the leaflets and outer sheet of the valve, shaping the leaflets and/or outer sheet to a desired shape, fixing the leaflets and/or outer sheet of the valve in the desired shape.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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